

# TIGER PAUSE YOUTH MINISTRY

*Redeeming Lives - Building Leaders - Transforming Communities*

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“They do not know how to do right” is what the Lord declares in Amos 3:10 (ESV). Those words ring true today and could easily sum up the year 2020. However, if you use challenges, setbacks, and even government mandates to sharpen and increase your faith, you will see life get easier. Until this year, I had never heard of the “Easy English” translation of the Bible but there is one. I can’t vouch for the interpretation, but I did like the way it translated Amos 5:24. “A river never stops moving. So, like the river, never stop being fair to people. Never stop doing right things.” I want to see justice. I want to see you always doing what is right. Those things should never stop, like a river that always runs with water. That verse summarizes how we at Tiger Pause sought to answer the call placed upon us.

Now, I have been teaching my sons about justice since the moment they learned how to talk. Literally. At night I go over the “14 Leadership Traits” I learned in Parris Island. “JJ DID TIE BUCKLE” is the acronym for the 14 Leadership Traits. Look it up, it’s great. Justice must be fair and reasonable. I often tell my boys that the world is not fair and reasonable, but that doesn’t mean we can’t be. If it’s good enough for my boys at home, it’s good enough for my kids at Tiger Pause. If you want to see young people doing what is right, then look no further than the Tiger Pause Remote Learning Center staff, who transformed our After-School Program to ensure that the learning never stopped. Here at Tiger Pause, history doesn’t just happen to us—we make history.

The culture that you have helped us grow over the years has taught us a number of things. Perhaps one of the more important things we have learned is that the spirit ain’t spit without exercise. That’s why the young men and women in our Eye of the Tiger Work Program never stop running to the jobs that no one else wants or no one else could do. It has been a pure blessing watching them grow and seeing them realize that “Oz never did give nothing to the Tin Man/That he didn’t, didn’t already have.”

We have also learned that Jesus often divides men between those who accept Him and trust Him and those who do not. There is wisdom and insight to be gained through that division, but it takes place on a battlefield. Chesty Puller said at the Chosin Reservoir, “We’re surrounded. That simplifies the problem.” We were no doubt surrounded by the enemy this year, but as we advanced in a different direction no one was left behind.

Over the Christmas season I watched my Charlie Brown Holiday Specials. This year I also watched “This is America, Charlie Brown: The Mayflower Voyagers.” While watching, I learned again that most of the adults died in the first year they arrived, but they were willing to risk it so that their children could have religious freedom. It is amazing how times have changed. Or have they? 2 Chronicles chapter 22 tells the story of Athalia. She was a queen so bent on holding on to her power that she had all her grandchildren killed. Of course, God overruled her evil plan and raised up Jehosheba to hide and protect her grandson Joash. I think that’s kind of like what happened here at Tiger Pause in 2020. We hid and protected the last, the lost, and the least, whoever the Lord brought into our family. After all, we are raising sheep. Maybe I should heed the wisdom in Amos 5:13 (ESV), “Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.” But alas, my long hair can’t cover my red neck so I’m about to go tell it on a mountain. Abe Lincoln said: “Laws change, people die, but the land remains.” Well the same Bible he read tells me, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.” So keep on moving. Don’t stop!

Semper Fi,

*Matt Nance*  
Executive Director

## **2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

For over 30 years, Tiger Pause Youth Ministry has worked tirelessly to cultivate a community where youth and their families thrive, by working as ambassadors—building bridges over socioeconomic barriers, equipping and empowering individuals within our disadvantaged neighborhoods, and developing lasting relationships that enable us to truly engage the community. We maintain

our commitment to transforming the Beaver Falls community through holistic and restorative educational programs and vocational opportunities that shine with the liberating power and hope of the gospel. We are committed to being advocates for the needy, producing positive changes in our city. As an organization, through dedicated work and collaborative efforts, we seek to create bright futures for the disadvantaged youth of our community. To that end and to maximize our efforts, we work with many local agencies, churches, and community groups, with the common goal of building up our community and connecting distressed citizens to the services they need to thrive.

## **PROGRAMS**

### ***After-School Program & Remote Learning Center***

For the start of 2020, we maintained our six after-school sites, five in Beaver Falls and one in Midland, and we had 131 students enrolled in the program. We fine-tuned our new training for Geneva tutors, which continues to show great results in effectively equipping tutors with skills and tactics to better assist our students academically. During the 2020 spring semester we added a cooking class for our After-School students, which was a huge success! This class was used as an incentive for consistent attendance and good behavior. A longtime volunteer led this class for the students and focused on healthy ingredients and teaching the students skills to better equip them in the kitchen and encourage a healthy lifestyle. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning how to create delicious food!

With all the challenges that 2020 brought and the changes in the educational system, we knew things would need to look different in the fall semester. We wanted to find a way to best serve the students in our community during this difficult time. After speaking with the Beaver Falls Superintendent and leaders in the agencies we work with, we decided that transitioning our after-school programming into a remote learning site would best serve the students at this time.

The Tiger Pause Remote Learning Center has provided a safe environment where students come on the days they are required to do remote learning at home. Most of the students enrolled in our Remote Learning Center are attending a school implementing a hybrid approach, where the students attend school for two days and are required to do remote learning for three days. We have two groups of students in our Remote Learning Program, and between the two groups we are serving a total of 66 students. Students in this program are referred to us by school counselors and the agencies we work closely with throughout the year. This has allowed us to be sure we are providing support for the students who are most in need of educational help.



We provide breakfast and lunch for students each day and send dinner home with them. The short timeframe we had for transitioning to the Remote Learning Center during the pandemic presented some challenges throughout the fall semester. However, even with the challenges we have faced, we have provided students with excellent staff who have created a safe haven where students come and are given individualized attention to meet academic, social, and physical needs. This program has exceeded our own expectations and we are thrilled to be providing a space where students can stay on track academically during a difficult time in our world.

We served nearly 10,000 meals to youth and families in need in 2020. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, families in our community were struggling to feed their children during school closures as they rely on free meals at school. We expanded our meal services to meet that urgent need, delivering/serving meals seven days a week. Before Covid-19, we had been offering dinner four times per week to After-School program participants. Once the shutdown occurred, we delivered meals to three HUD Housing sites in Beaver Falls and one in Midland. Additionally, we offered grab-and-go dinners on Friday and grab-and-go lunches on Saturdays at Saint Monica Academy. On Sundays we offered grab-and-go meals from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our church building downtown. We encouraged families in need to call our office and let us know how many meals they needed, which we would then deliver to their homes. We distributed flyers and advertised this service on social media to reach as many families in need as possible. We delivered meals to any child in need throughout Beaver County and would never turn any child away.

### ***Summer Camp***

The world seemed to turn upside down in 2020, and our ideas for a summer program were scratched and rethought multiple times. Only by the Grace of God are we able to give an update about what summer 2020 at Tiger Pause entailed. He always knew. Our camp this summer looked vastly different from previous years. For starters, it was only four weeks instead of the normal six, and we ran it entirely on our Splash Pad property located on 8th Avenue in downtown Beaver Falls. We decided to have open enrollment each day, meaning any child could come throughout the summer. We averaged about 20-25 children daily. Each day included Bible

lessons, high-energy games, crafts, educational lessons, and lunch. It rarely rained and when it did, it only lasted a few minutes. God is good. His Grace is sufficient. The staff did an amazing job and without them and their serving hearts, this summer would have looked much different. A huge shout-out to our teachers, who planned and taught comprehension and STEM lessons throughout the program. We were also thankful to have partnered with Ready Yourselves Youth Ranch. God blessed our summer with His protection, provision, and faithfulness.

### **Mentoring Program**

The Tiger Pause Mentoring Program provides an outlet for young men and women to connect with someone who has recently been in their shoes and found success. We partner with Beaver County Children and Youth Services to find youth ages 14-21 who need academic assistance. The mentoring program enables these youth to receive support in a number of ways including: passing a class, career exploration, preparing for college entrance exams, acquiring a GED, applying for college, looking for scholarships, and a number of other education-related goals. The mentoring program is built around educational goals and outcomes, but our main desire is to model Christ's love by building lasting relationships with the participating youth. This program allows mentors to use their God-given talents to help struggling students find success during a critical time in their lives when they are desiring accomplishment, acceptance, and direction.

### ***The following is a testimony written by staff member and longtime mentor, Christina Nowak:***

*I have been part of the Tiger Pause Mentoring Program since February of 2017, and Tawny was the first high school student I was matched with. When we first met, she had low self-esteem, second-guessed herself on anything related to schoolwork, and wanted my help every step of the way. Tawny was enrolled in PA Cyber, all self-paced classes, which made it easy for her to fall behind. She struggled to stay motivated and understand math lessons. The more she fell behind, the more anxious she became, which made her avoid doing schoolwork even more. The cycle just continued. The first year we were together, Tawny wanted to meet at least twice a week and really struggled to work independently. On one occasion, I went with Tawny and her mom to truancy court to testify as a witness that Tawny was putting in effort to complete her work. Tawny would be at a good place, feel motivated, and then slump back into her same cycle of depression and anxiety. In those slumps, she would ignore her work and expect me to pull the pieces together for her. Tawny and I had so many great discussions about life, college, and how to balance schoolwork when it seems too overwhelming. As we continued building our relationship, my confidence in Tawny began to manifest inside of her as well. The next school year, Tawny started showing more desire to do well in her classes and work more independently. This only continued to grow and expand each year. By January of 2019, Tawny started doing most of her schoolwork completely on her own. I saw a spark of hope within her that I never thought I would see when we first met. Tawny went from getting D's and F's to graduating High School with A's and B's! Over the years, I watched as Tawny made a shift from feeling hopeless and considering dropping out, to believing that she could truly graduate. The Mentoring Program not only gave Tawny the help she needed with her schoolwork, but also the support, encouragement, and building blocks to help her approach her future with determination, confidence, and hope.*

We look forward to all the great things the Lord will do through the Mentoring Program in 2021. Our goals this year include: setting specific meeting times at the initial meeting to remove ambiguity, and establishing dates and times that will be reserved for mentoring. We look forward to growing as a program, matching more youth in need with capable and caring mentors, and making an even bigger impact in the year ahead.

### **Eye of the Tiger Work Program**

The Eye of the Tiger (EOT) Work Program employs high school and post high school students from the Beaver Falls area with the goal of teaching them marketable work skills, and life skills such as multitasking and flexibility, while also strengthening their emotional, mental, and social development through various work environments. In 2020, gross earnings for Eye of the Tiger Work Program ventures totaled over \$291,000. The EOT Program provides economic opportunities to low-income young men and women. These opportunities range from earning part-time wages for manual labor and childcare, learning how to run a business, and apprenticeships in construction trades. Throughout 2020 we employed 64 low-income youth, ages 14 to 24, that meet federal poverty guidelines and many of whom are former Tiger Pause program participants. In this program, teenagers are mentored in life and job skills, participate in daily devotions and Bible studies concentrated on servant leadership, receive a free meal each time they work, and are given the chance to go on a mission trip. In addition to their work hours, EOT participants spend time in various classes covering topics like financial responsibility that are led by sponsors of our organization, such as RAM Acoustical Corporation and McDanel Advanced Ceramic Technologies. This program is approved for EITC in career development—special



thanks to Huntington Bank for their support! We are blessed by the youth in this program as their hard work, growth, and determination give us the fuel to accomplish immense and unbelievable projects with blood, sweat, and tears. The young men and women in our EOT Work Program have the opportunity to earn an income, while also earning money for Tiger Pause that helps to offset the cost of all the other programs that we offer free of charge. Through extensive construction jobs we present many opportunities to Eye of the Tiger Work Program participants, effectively equipping them for their future careers. Most of the services our EOT Program carries out are as a subcontractor for Beaver County Behavioral Health, the Mental Health Association, CYS, the Department of Aging, and the Housing Authority of Beaver County. This interaction has given Tiger Pause a unique perspective on the needs of marginalized individuals, and how different organizations within a community can collaborate to bring hope, health, and build trust with hurting families. Participants engage in work projects where they can learn basic skills in carpentry, electrical wiring, and plumbing, along with the art of customer service, while also learning about career options. Developing these marketable skills improves their income earning potential. Program supervisors offer a model of servant leadership as they seek to develop each young person's potential. Through this program many economically disadvantaged young people get to study under experienced contractors, two of whom are full-time Tiger Pause staff members. We believe that developing a solid work ethic, skills to earn an income, and furthering career possibilities will help liberate the young adults we serve from cycles of poverty and hopelessness, fostering them into lives of self-sufficiency. Our hope is that all the youth who come through our programs will feel the love of Christ and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior.

## **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Our goal with opening businesses has always been to one day award them to students who have grown up in our programs, have graduated from college or received education and work skills, and who then come back to live, work, and serve in their community. This year was a huge success for our ministry, the culmination of years of striving, as we turned over ownership of three properties located in the middle of the main street in downtown Beaver Falls, specifically to minorities. The vision that we had when we purchased those four properties out of repository was realized, and what a blessing it has been to see these businesses continue to flourish under new ownership. Thanks to the diligent work of the youth in our EOT Work Program, the contractors we have on staff, and volunteers from the community, we rehabilitated half a block and reached our goal. We also celebrated two indigenous leaders as Seth Gosseck (Goose) and Peter Lyons (Petey Pie) founded and incorporated their own moving company, All-In Moving. Throughout the course of the past year, they assumed the responsibilities of over one hundred household moves performed in the regional counties, and three interstate moves to Minneapolis, MN, Athens, GA, and Naples, FL. Additionally, they coordinated the delivery of more than 60 smart boards and 600 tablets to local Pittsburgh schools.

### ***Beez Cafe***

Under the leadership of Dr. Bryan Crawl, The Cafe continues to serve as not only a local gathering spot where folks can enjoy a cup of coffee (made from beans grown where tigers come from...India Monsoon Malabar and Sumatra Mandheling blend thanks to Hallowed Grounds), but also as a refuge for many of the folks living on the margins. Almost every day multiple case workers meeting with clients come in to feel the presence and the peace that surpasses all understanding. These folks, who would never be together otherwise, come for prayer and for the pastoral care that Doc Bryan provides. The Cafe also serves as the preferred lunch break of the young men and women on the EOT Work Crew. Here young people can receive a free meal while they work, in addition to wisdom from behind the counter. Everyone in that building shares the struggles and joys that love provides us. Catch the Christian Discipleship vlog called "Conversations with Dr. Bryan" on YouTube.

### ***Chilly Willy Cheesesteaks***

*Update written by Mr. Will Vason (a.k.a Chilly Willy):*

Chilly Willy's has experienced the grace and favor of our God through extremely difficult circumstances and times full of changes. When Covid-19 hit, prices skyrocketed, vendors were shutting down, and supplies were limited. Everything became very unpredictable except for our God. Hebrews 13:8 says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." And Malachi 3:6 says "I the Lord do not change." So through it all, our numbers went up each month and we experienced our best months during Covid-19 to the glory of God! I want to thank our loyal customers, Tiger Pause, and Mr. Matt for giving me the opportunity to do ministry through Kingdom entrepreneurship and touch the lives of people that come to enjoy "The Best Cheesesteak" in all of Western Pennsylvania.

### ***Standing in the Gap Cleaning***

Clean Hearts Cleaning Services is a business partnership between Tiger Pause and Standing in the Gap (SITG) Ministries that has taken up residence at 1320 7th Avenue in Beaver Falls. Located in the building next to Chilly Willy Cheesesteaks, the business will afford women who are in recovery a chance to work with adult mentors. Clean Hearts Cleaning will provide income and experience to build self-esteem, teaching women life skills including money management and job



performance responsibility. It is the hope of SITG that giving these women a chance at a new beginning will allow them to become productive members of society in the cleaning business, while also cleaning up their lives. Clean Hearts Cleaning Ministry is hoping to add more employees in the next month and is looking for additional job opportunities. For more information contact Andrea at (724) 701-1765.

### ***Wiiz's Wonders Furniture Bank***

The furniture bank is a great service to the community where we sell donated furniture, appliances, and other small household items at an affordable rate, with all proceeds supporting Tiger Pause programs. If someone cannot afford an item in the furniture bank, we have a "Work 4 Stuff" program where they can volunteer their time in exchange for the items they want. Tiger Pause workers arrange free pick-up of donated items and safely move and deliver furniture for a nominal fee. The Furniture Bank will soon be housed in the old Rite Aid building, which has been renovated and is now known as The Redemption Center. The larger space will allow us to expand the ministry and impact of the Furniture Bank. This year we completed over 700 household pickups and 500 deliveries, helping over 4,000 individuals find suitable living furniture.

### ***New Brighton Building***

We have been bringing youth from New Brighton to our Summer Camp for years, and for as long as the Eye of the Tiger Program has been in existence, we have employed New Brighton youth. Through the generous donation of a beautiful building from the families of Dr. Morris Book and Dr. Marshall Burke of Heritage Valley, we now have a presence in New Brighton and our roots have grown even deeper. We have continued to update the facility, including renovations to the kitchen and remodeling the basement to house a historic train display of churches in Beaver County. The train display will highlight the eras 1700 to 1860, 1861 to 1970, and 1970 to present. The trains were donated from Dr. Bob Madden and we believe that the display will rival the one at the Carnegie Science Center, as we highlight the good and bad done by churches in Beaver County. We hosted a Live Nativity at the New Brighton house on December 23rd, complete with live animals and homemade hot chocolate. Mark your calendars for the second annual Live Nativity on December 23, 2021 at the New Brighton house!

### ***Seth's Showers Community Splash Pad***

Being able to cool off in the Splash Pad on hot summer days has been a blessing to many in the Beaver Falls community. Since Beaver Falls does not have a public pool, we are happy to offer relief from the heat to children and their families. The Splash Pad is free of charge and operates any day that the temperature is over 80 degrees. Special thanks to the Beaver County Commissioners and Beaver County Community Development for helping us beautify the lot over the past couple of years with new landscaping, including shrubs and trees.

## **HOME MISSION**

### ***Standing in the Gap Building Update***

We started 2020 working on the old "5 & 10" also known as the Old Rite Aid Building, and we finished the year working on that same building. However, it is now called The Redemption Center, a huge place where those in need, those seeking to minister, businesses leaders, agencies, and even an expanded furniture bank will all come to realize their full potential in Christ.

Throughout the year, a partnership with Standing in the Gap, Crossroads Men's Shelter, and Saint Monica's led to multiple different days where we had 100+ volunteers (socially distanced and staggered), thousands of man-hours, and a new \$100,000 roof, to find a redeeming purpose in a building that is over 30,000 square feet. So far it has served as a storage facility for displaced families, a training ground for youth entering the construction trades, and the catalyst for expanding/incubating business entrepreneurs that will develop this community while preserving the historical landscape that made our city proud.

The main floor that accesses the main street will become the new home of the Tiger Pause Furniture Bank, allowing us to expand our services in picking up and collecting suitable living furniture to offer at a discount, or in exchange for community service hours, to families in need. The rest of the building will be dedicated to businesses that share our burden for the trafficked and homeless populations around us. They must commit to using a portion of their revenue to help support local organizations ministering to those who have been victims of trafficking and/or suffered homelessness. They must agree to uphold and allow themselves to be held accountable to these four principles based on Zephaniah 3:2—Hear God, Receive Correction, Trust the Lord, and Draw Near to God.

### ***Hispanic Christian Community of Beaver County***

*Update written by Nahun Martinez, Tiger Pause EOT Work Program Director and Hispanic Christian Community Pastor:*

This journey started as a dream a few years ago when my family and I moved to the United States and to the Beaver County area. We saw the need for relationships and connections within the Hispanic community, and perhaps a church to serve the spiritual needs of the people. We wanted to do more, but we didn't know exactly what to do or how it would come to pass.

After a few years of having this desire, and through much prayer and preparation, we felt that it was the right time to take action to make this dream a reality. In January 2020, we started the first Hispanic church in Beaver County – in the year where the pandemic seemed to paralyze our world. Even though the world seemed to stop, we (like many) moved our prayer meetings online. Although many people will say that the pandemic was the worst thing to happen to them, we are thankful for the time it gave us to put the necessary pieces into place to launch our church, Comunidad Cristiana Hispana (CCH). CCH is the first all-Spanish speaking congregation in the Beaver County area.

It is by the grace of our Eternal God and by the support of several people that my family and I have started this project. I am extremely thankful to God for sending people our way to support this dream. I am appreciative of my friends, members of our extended family, coworkers, mentors, and pastors of other churches that are committed to this movement, with their prayers, words of encouragement, and spiritual support. I want to express my gratitude to Tiger Pause – the ministry in which I have the honor to work. They have believed in and supported my vision for the Hispanic Church from the beginning. Our Executive Director, Mr. Matt is immensely supportive of my endeavors regarding CCH. He has been exceedingly understanding and flexible when I have needed time off or help with anything.

I am in awe of what the Lord is doing in this city through Tiger Pause and other ministries. Now, through the Hispanic Church, the Lord is bringing together people from different nationalities and ethnicities, so that the local Spanish-speaking community can have the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ in their own language and can come be a part of His Kingdom. To HIM alone be all glory!

## **VOLUNTEERS**

In 2020 we were blessed with 52 unduplicated volunteers who assisted in safely serving meals to community members in need during the shutdown in the spring and who also volunteered at our Remote Learning Center in the fall. Geneva College volunteers assist the children with homework, serve meals, and help with lessons and recreational activities. Though we had fewer volunteers than normal due to modifying our programs and businesses because of Covid-19 concerns, we still had many volunteers from local churches and the community who served us in a variety of ways. These volunteers served at the Furniture Bank and the Beez Café, as well as helping with remodeling, cleaning, and Summer Camp. We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers, and we are continually grateful for our partnerships with various agencies and organizations in the greater Beaver Falls community, and generous donors that enable us to remain effective while also broadening our outreach.

## **FINANCIAL ACCOUNT**

Each year we are audited by Frank P. Hess & Co., Inc. who specialize in not-for-profit accounting and auditing. Tiger Pause is also a member of The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. In 2020, administrative personnel costs only made up 7% of all Tiger Pause expenses. This 7% is for three administrative employees, and these costs are independent of individual and church giving. We share that percentage to show that when you donate to Tiger Pause, your money isn't being used to cover administrative costs but rather is poured directly into our programs and the lives of youth and families in need.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

We have a lot in store for 2021, but we are working on two exciting projects that we want to share! One is the demolition of the old Dairy Queen building and cleanup of the Dairy Queen lot. The demolition took place on January 15th-16th, along with 24 hours of prayer. Stayed tuned for future plans for this lot! The second project is creating a Sawmill in downtown Beaver Falls. The Sawmill will be utilized by our EOT Work Program and will allow for flexible work hours where individuals with unique needs and scheduling concerns can complete supervised work and receive job training to build up consistency and develop a strong work ethic.

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### **Tiger Pause Youth Ministry**

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